

**SWDLWG
KANE/GARFIELD
COUNTYS**

Date: Thursday May 20th 2004

Time: 10:00 AM

Place: County Building Extension offices

Members Present;

Todd Black (USU CCES)

Adam Bronson (UDWR)

Nyle Sorensen (UDWR)

Jacob Schoppe (USFS)

Wally Dobbs (UACD)

Lisa Church (BLM)

John Keeler (UFB)

Mac Ray Julander (Sportsman)

Kevin Heaton (USU EXT)

Rick Baxter (BYU)

Information Presented

Adam Bronson summarized counts for 2004 and gave updates on sage-grouse lek counts from 2000-2004 lek counts in most areas, are higher this year than in past years.

Encouraging points—butler creek highest counts since UDWR has counted along with haycock creek, these are two leks up towards Panguitch lake both are on private lands, one overlaps with BLM. These two leks are only separated by a couple of miles. Not sure why these leks are doing so well, they are at higher elevations.

Discovered a new lek this year Spring Creek.

Adam thinks there maybe Raven issues in Johns valley with the land fill. The landfill was put in around mid to early 90's. Lek counts have dropped off on the John's valley #1 lek has dropped off a fair amount. John L Swale numbers have dropped off as well. Herbaceous understory is also lacking and may be an issue. UDWR has a predator management plan in this area for antelope and sage-grouse.

A big concern is the Alton/Sink Valley leks numbers are falling and we need to decide what to do here. What to do here is a big concern, this population. We need to get some collars on these birds to find out where they are going, what habitat they are using and when they are using them. Discussion was had to get a female dummy stuffed bird to use as a decoy with ground rocket launcher net guns. Nile express some concerns with trapping here and mortality issues. If we loose a bird or two from trapping, that could hurt us even more.

The group discussed the possibility of translocating birds.

Discussion needs to be had with Dean about translocation of birds from Parker Mtn. to the sinks area south of Alton. Todd to start discussion with Dean.

3-400 acres will be treated in Panguitch valley this year by UDWR. BLM will be treating additional acres in the Panguitch valley area.

Rick Baxter gave presentation on research efforts on Strawberry, including translocation efforts. The group asked several questions as to methods and results.

Discussion Highlights

Actions Taken

The group divided the geographic area into smaller sub-units based on lek locations.

The group went over assignments of management plan and who needs to do what and when it needs to be done by.

Next Meeting June 21st at 1:00 PM in the Panguitch Forest Service office in Panguitch.

Follow-up Needed

We need to find good precip. data for the area. It would appear that the birds might be very susceptible to extreme winter weather conditions. Hard winters may be what is really driving the cycle of the birds.

Adam to summarize lek data for the past several years per/lek and break these up into smaller geographic sub units.

We need to further divide the area up into smaller geographic areas based on lek clusters and geographic barriers. Work on the map as an agenda item for next meeting.

Kevin to talk with Raymond and company in Alton to see if we can get permission to attempt to trap birds sometime between the second and third cutting.

Todd to give Dave and Dwayne a heads up as to what we are trying to do.

Todd to talk with the PARM group and Dean about possible translocations next year for the Sinks/Alton area.